

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:  
a cathode comprising a cathode active material and carbon fibers;  
an anode;  
a separator; and  
an alkaline electrolyte,  
wherein the carbon fibers comprise between about 40 and about 100 layers of graphite.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:  
a cathode comprising a cathode active material and carbon fibers;  
an anode;  
a separator; and  
an alkaline electrolyte,  
wherein the carbon fibers have a surface energy between about 50 mJ/m<sup>2</sup> and about 300 mJ/m<sup>2</sup>.

26. (Previously Presented) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:  
a cathode comprising a cathode active material and carbon fibers;  
an anode;  
a separator; and  
an alkaline electrolyte,  
wherein the carbon fibers have a graphitic index of less than about 85%.

27-44. (Canceled)

45. (New) The battery of claim 23, wherein the cathode comprises less than about 5% of carbon fibers by weight.

46. (New) The battery of claim 23, wherein the cathode comprises less than about 4% of carbon fibers by weight.

47. (New) The battery of claim 23, wherein the cathode comprises less than about 3% of carbon fibers by weight.

48. (New) The battery of claim 23, wherein the cathode comprises less than about 2% of carbon fibers by weight.

49. (New) The battery of claim 23, wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 86% of the cathode active material by weight.

50. (New) The battery of claim 23, wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 88% of the cathode active material by weight.

51. (New) The battery of claim 23, wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 92% of the cathode active material by weight.

52. (New) The battery of claim 23, wherein the carbon fibers have a diameter less than about 250 nanometers.

53. (New) The battery of claim 23, wherein the carbon fibers have a diameter between about 60 nanometers and about 100 nanometers.

54. (New) The battery of claim 23, wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 86% of the cathode active material by weight, and less than about 5% of carbon fibers by weight.

55. (New) The battery of claim 23, wherein the cathode further comprises a binder.

56. (New) The battery of claim 25, wherein the cathode comprises less than about 5% of carbon fibers by weight.

57. (New) The battery of claim 25, wherein the cathode comprises less than about 4% of carbon fibers by weight.

58. (New) The battery of claim 25, wherein the cathode comprises less than about 3% of carbon fibers by weight.

59. (New) The battery of claim 25, wherein the cathode comprises less than about 2% of carbon fibers by weight.

60. (New) The battery of claim 25, wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 86% of the cathode active material by weight.

61. (New) The battery of claim 25, wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 88% of the cathode active material by weight.

62. (New) The battery of claim 25, wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 92% of the cathode active material by weight.

63. (New) The battery of claim 25, wherein the carbon fibers have a diameter less than about 250 nanometers.

64. (New) The battery of claim 25, wherein the carbon fibers have a diameter between about 60 nanometers and about 100 nanometers.

65. (New) The battery of claim 25, wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 86% of the cathode active material by weight, and less than about 5% of carbon fibers by weight.

66. (New) The battery of claim 25, wherein the cathode further comprises a binder.

67. (New) The battery of claim 26, wherein the cathode comprises less than about 5% of carbon fibers by weight.

68. (New) The battery of claim 26, wherein the cathode comprises less than about 4% of carbon fibers by weight.

69. (New) The battery of claim 26, wherein the cathode comprises less than about 3% of carbon fibers by weight.

70. (New) The battery of claim 26, wherein the cathode comprises less than about 2% of carbon fibers by weight.

71. (New) The battery of claim 26, wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 86% of the cathode active material by weight.

72. (New) The battery of claim 26, wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 88% of the cathode active material by weight.

73. (New) The battery of claim 26, wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 92% of the cathode active material by weight.

74. (New) The battery of claim 26, wherein the carbon fibers have a diameter less than about 250 nanometers.

75. (New) The battery of claim 26, wherein the carbon fibers have a diameter between about 60 nanometers and about 100 nanometers.

76. (New) The battery of claim 26, wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 86% of the cathode active material by weight, and less than about 5% of carbon fibers by weight.

77. (New) The battery of claim 26, wherein the cathode further comprises a binder.